

Appl. No. 10/820,909
Amdt. dated December 6, 2005
Reply to Office action of November 22, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim Objections

Claims 2-8, 11-20, 22-28, 31-38, and 40-43 stand as objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. The Examiner has indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 23 and 24 have been amended to make the preamble of the claim consistent with the preamble of claim 22, on which these claims depend. No new matter has been added.

Claims 2-8, 11-20, 22-28, 31-38, and 40-43 have been amended to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore the objections should be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §102(b)

Claims 1, 9, 21, 29, and 39 stand as rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Parker et al. (US Patent No. 3,740,097).

Claims 1, 21, and 39 have been canceled.

Claim 9 has been amended to be dependent on claim 2, which the Examiner has indicated as allowable subject matter. Support for this claim is found on page 8, lines 15- page 9, line 5 and in Figures 4 and 5 of the instant application. A claim in dependent form shall be construed to incorporate by reference all the limitations of the claim to which it refers (35 USC §112, 4th paragraph). Therefore, since the Examiner has indicated that claim 2 is allowable, claim 9 is in condition for allowance and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Appl. No. 10/820,909
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Claim 29 has been amended to be dependent on claim 22, which the Examiner has indicated as allowable subject matter. Support for this claim is found on page 12, lines 3-5; page 9, lines 3-4; and Figures 4 and 5 of the instant application. A claim in dependent form shall be construed to incorporate by reference all the limitations of the claim to which it refers (35 USC §112, 4th paragraph). Therefore, since the Examiner has indicated that claim 22 is allowable, claim 29 is in condition for allowance and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §103

Claims 10 and 30 stand as rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Parker et al. and further in view of Ray (US Patent No. 4,019,781).

Claim 10 is dependent on claim 9 which has been amended to be dependent on claim 2, which the Examiner has indicated as allowable subject matter. A claim in dependent form shall be construed to incorporate by reference all the limitations of the claim to which it refers (35 USC §112, 4th paragraph). Therefore, since the Examiner has indicated that claim 2 is allowable, claim 10 is in condition for allowance and the rejection should be withdrawn.

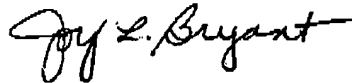
Claim 30 is dependent on claim 29 which has been amended to be dependent on claim 22, which the Examiner has indicated as allowable subject matter. A claim in dependent form shall be construed to incorporate by reference all the limitations of the claim to which it refers (35 USC §112, 4th paragraph). Therefore, since the Examiner has indicated that claim 22 is allowable, claim 30 is in condition for allowance and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Appl. No. 10/820,909
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CONCLUSION

In view of the above Amendments and Remarks, it is submitted that claims 2-20, 22-38, and 40-43 are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections are requested and allowance of the claims at an early date is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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